

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies
Directie-Generaal Oorlogsslachtoffers, Brussel 497/266.018 Israël Steinberg
Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe
– Rescue and Survival of Jews in Occupied Western Europe – A Reappraisal
Translation: E10 Investigation report by the Belgian Department for War Victims
from 1976 on Israël Steinberg

MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND FAMILY WELFARE

October 18, 1976
BRUSSELS 1070
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WAR VICTIMS
ADMINISTRATION
Office: Research, Documentation
and Deaths
No _____ 125 /HDB/LG.
(TO BE MENTIONED IN REPLIES) **266018**

ANNEX

Report on the inquiries conducted on October 11, 12 and 14, 1976, by Mr.
DUMONCEAU de BERGENDAL

Subject: STEINBERG, Israël
_____ born July 14, 1880

I went to the Prison Administration at the Ministry of Justice in the hopes of obtaining information on the reasons why the aforementioned person was arrested on multiple occasions during World War II by both the Belgian and German authorities.

I was received by Mr. HERREMAN, the director, who showed me his administration's slim record on Israel STEINBERG, in which only his 1956 arrest for "pickpocketing" is mentioned. Mr. HERREMAN said that in 1940, the Germans got a hold of the Aliens Police archives and likely discovered that Israe [sic] STEINBERG, whose existence they were aware of for a reason to be determined, was in Merxplas.

At the Aliens Police office, the director Mr. VERREYDT had the "STEINBERG Israel" record brought in from the Merxplas warehouse. From it, I obtained the following information:

" As early as 1930, the Vienna police reports that Israel STEINBERG is a
" pickpocket on high-speed trains (?). He is found guilty of the same
" crime in Krakow in 1930, in Halle in 1931, in Brno in 1934.... and in
Brussels in 1937;
" That year, the Belgian courts send him to the border and tell the State
" Security Service that they must arrest him if he comes back to Belgium.
" He is arrested again in Vienna in 1938 and in Brussels on July 11, 1939.
" The Belgian courts send him to Herbesthal, where they ask him to cross the
" border. He does nothing of the kind and goes to Liège, where he is once
" again caught red-handed stealing. Given the state of the war, he is not sent
" back to the border but rather is detained at Saint-Gilles, where he must
" serve a ten-month sentence.

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" On May 10, 1940, he has not finished serving his sentence and is sent to
" Merxplas, where his detainment is confirmed by A.M. on August 9, 1940.
" On October 3, 1940, by order of the "Beaufrage des chefs der
" Sicherheitspolizei im des S.D." [sic] He is sent to Breendonk with five other
" Jews. By his own account, he stays at the concentration camp until
" February or March of 1943, when he is sent to the Dossin barracks in
" Mechlin.
" On April 19, 1943, he is part of the 20th convoy and claims to have escaped
" from his car near the German border. He goes back to Brussels, where he
" poses as Alberto FERRARI. He is arrested in June and November of 1943,
" once again for pickpocketing. He is sentenced to six months in prison for
" robbery and forged documents and even though he tells them he was
" imprisoned at Breendonk, on April 5, 1944, the Belgian courts transfer him
" to Rekkem, undoubtedly so that he won't be deported by the Germans. After
" the liberation of Belgium, the Belgian authorities do not free him. It is only

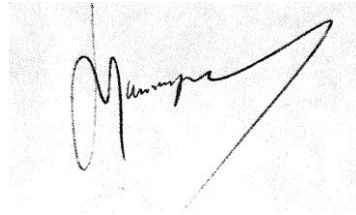
“ in October 1946 (thanks to the efforts of the Polish legation) that he is sent
“ to Vilnius, where he claims to have left behind his wife and five children
(?!).

“On November 20, 1954, he is found in Louvain, where he is arrested for
“ robbery. He claims to live in Luxembourg, which is in fact where he is sent
“ on February 17, 1955.

“ On January 4, 1956, he is caught stealing from a department store in
“ Brussels. He is brought to the Luxembourg border but on March 12, 1956,
“ he is arrested again in Brussels for pickpocketing.

“ He serves one month in prison before he is deported to France, where he
“ disappears.”

H. DUMONCEAU de BERGENDAL.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Dumonceau de Bergendal', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

translated by Nina Fink